

## HOW TO MAKE A LAWN.

Preparing the Soil—How and When to Sow—A Good Lawn Mixture.

First, if the land is not naturally well drained, it must be brought into condition by underdrainage. The soil best adapted to the growth of a good sward is a sandy loam with a gravelly bottom. The land should first be plowed and then graded. The surface ought to be heavily dressed with manure, which should be turned under, the surface then dragged until fine and then rolled. Only first class seed ought to be used. James Shuman, in his manual on tender and hardy plants, says:

The finest sward we ever saw was made from the following mixture: Ten quarts Rhode Island bent grass; four quarts white clover; eight quarts Kentucky blue grass; six quarts red top grass. Sow at the rate of six bushels to the acre. Grass seed can be sown in the fall any time from the 1st of October to the 1st of December. If the seed be sown a good sward may be expected the following summer, and a good turf may be expected from spring sown seeds if the season is not too dry. The drier the ground is when the seeds are sown the better.

To keep the lawn in a flourishing condition, fresh and green all summer, it will need a top dressing of well rotted manure applied in the fall at least once every two years. Grass roots derive nourishment close to the surface—hence the great advantage of top dressing. In some localities where the frost "heaves" the soil to any extent during the winter, it will be advantageous to roll it down in the spring with a heavy roller, doing it just after a heavy rain. When the ground is soft and pliable, this will make the surface smooth and in proper condition for the lawn mower to pass over it.

## Furnish for Winter.

Ferns all require a moist atmosphere, and if near the glass should be protected from direct sunlight. The soil, as a rule, should be of a peaty nature, but for the strong growing kinds a large proportion of loam may be used. A plentiful supply of water is the most important item; indeed, with healthy and well drained plants it is almost impossible to give too much, at least during the period of active growth. If the plants are grown in tubs or pots it is advisable, when a new whorl of fronds is being made, to give frequent supplies of manure water. In large conservatories the most beautiful effect is obtained by planting on a rockery and choosing plants and species suitable to the height of the structure. In such an arrangement it is essential that the plants should be set at different heights, so that each head is shown to advantage and the stems are not hidden.

## Calla Lilies.

The calla is a popular favorite found in every window garden collection. Like other bulbous plants callas must have a season of rest. If required to bloom during the winter or spring months they must be rested in summer. The blooming season can be reversed if desired by resting in winter.

To prepare callas for winter blooming shake off the old soil from the bulbs kept over during the summer and repot in fine, rich soil, employing pots one size larger than those used the previous year; place the plants in a cool, shady spot



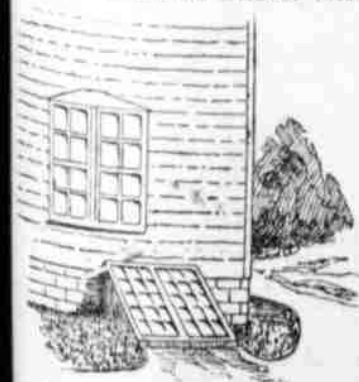
A SPOTTED CALLA.

and water freely. Let them remain for three weeks, until new roots have formed, after which all danger is passed and they can be removed into full light and heat. When growing, water freely. An application of strong liquid manure once a week will add greatly to the growth of the plants and to the number of blossoms produced.

Every one is familiar with the white calla lily. Varieties not so well known are the yellow calla, the flower of which is a light yellow with rich purple in the throat, and the black calla, the flowers of which are a deep velvety maroon, almost black. The spotted leaf calla is prized for a twofold reason—the plant is ornamental even when not in flower because the dark green leaves are spotted with white and it is of dwarf habit.

## WINTERING PLANTS IN CELLARS.

Transforming a Cellarway Into a Plant Pot—Keeping Large Plants Dormant. Amateurs who have neither greenhouse or regular plant pits are obliged to resort to various devices for safely wintering their flowers without these



CELLARWAY AS A PLANT PIT.

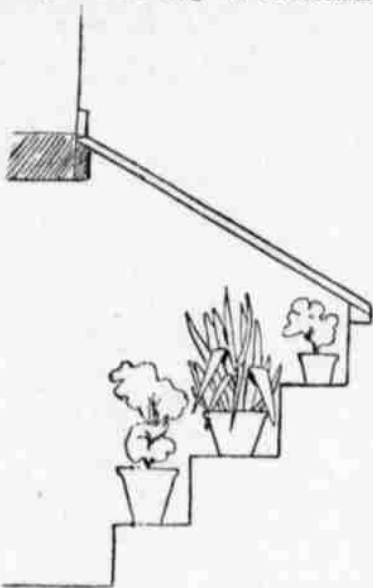
appliances. A correspondent contributes

to American gardening a description and sketches of an ingenious plan for utilizing an outdoor cellarway as a plant pit.

The ordinary outside cellarway is almost invariably made to face the south, and is thus in the right situation. All that is needed is to substitute glass for the wooden doors, and make everything snug and tight, banking with earth if thought necessary.

The inner cellar door is left open and danger from freezing is thus avoided. The cellar steps serve as plant shelves.

Many plants, such as century plants, oleanders, large cactuses, etc., that have grown too large to be accommo-



CROSS SECTION OF CELLARWAY.

dated in the sitting room or conservatory, can be wintered in any moderately dry, frostproof cellar. After placing these large plants in the cellar it will not be necessary to give them any water, the object being to keep them dormant all winter, which can be done by keeping the soil dry, but not so dry as to allow the plants to shrivel or become withered. Large geraniums, salvia and heliotrope roots, and even tea roses and carnations can be kept moderately well in the cellar by trenching them in dry or moderately moist sand. The leaves of all deciduous plants should be removed before they are put away in this manner. The foliage should remain on the oleanders and carnations.

## Treatment of Shrubs.

A New York World correspondent writes concerning the pruning of shrubs: "Observation and experience have led me to believe that if the pruning done be of a moderate nature one may prune most shrubs at any season of the year. The harm most frequently done to shrubs comes from too severe cutting. It is true that shrubs severely pruned in the spring often survive the heroic treatment, as a new growth soon follows the depletion. I believe, however, that severe pruning is unnecessary, and in my own limited operations a general cutting at long intervals has been successfully replaced by frequently cutting out with a sharp knife—always conveniently on hand—branches or shoots here and there so soon as these appear to the eye to be out of place."

## The Auratum Lily.

It should be well understood, says Vick, that the gold banded lily is a fickle plant. It is never long lived, and is frequently disappointing. Nevertheless it is a plant of such great beauty that it is worth many trials to finally succeed with it. It may be raised in a pot in the house altogether. In planting out it should be placed in a deep, well drained soil, setting it eight or ten inches deep, and covering it well with leaves in autumn for winter protection. A site partly shaded, or shaded during the warmest part of the day, is desirable. Do not dig fresh manure into the soil where it is planted.

## Protecting Half Hardy Plants.

Half hardy plants are the ones most liable to injury, for those plants known to be tender are carefully protected when not lifted and transferred to greenhouse or window garden. Professor Massey, of the North Carolina experiment station, has tried with success covering half hardy plants with mounds of perfectly dry sawdust and then topping them with waterproof shelters similar to the hay caps now used.

## Fruit Notes.

A New York horticulturist names the Primrose as one of the best of summer apples.

On account of its thin skin, the Worden grape requires extra care in handling and packing.

Grafting wax made of beeswax and rosin, rendered plastic by additions of alcohol, is used and recommended by Professor Craig, of the Canadian experimental farm.

Mr. E. Williams, for fifteen years secretary of the New Jersey State Horticultural society, says that if he were restricted to three varieties of grapes he would select Worden, Brighton and Niagara.

## Horticulture Notes.

The Newtown pippin is popular, not only for home consumption, but for the foreign trade.

Roman hyacinths are extensively used for forcing, which may be done at a temperature of 60 degrees.

John Lewis Childs tells that the Chinese sacred lily blooms as well in pebbles and water as in soil.

Jonquils are suitable alike for pot culture or for planting out. The culture required is the same as for hyacinths.

The new Princess strawberry, which originated in Minnesota, was named by the Horticultural society of that state; it at the same time took first prize over fifteen new seedlings.

An experienced peach grower says: "Don't force a too rapid growth while young, as it tends to produce a tree subject to early decay. Apply no fertilizer upon the peach orchard in good soil until the peering period."

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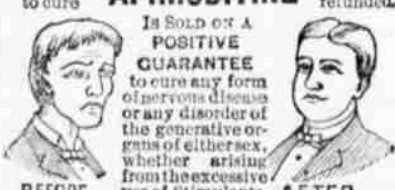
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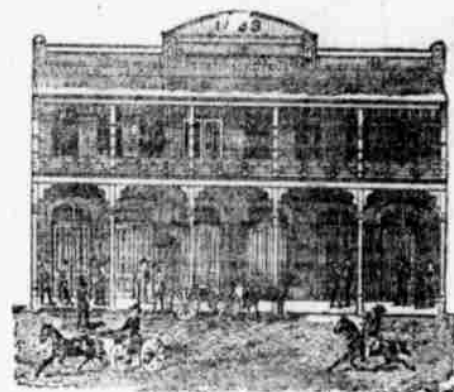
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